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Gibson

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Sharon L. Morris, R.N., and Dean E. Morris

DATE: February 6, 1996

SERIAL NO.: 08/286,413

GROUP ART UNIT: 2111

FILED: August 5, 1994

EXAMINER: R. Gibson

FOR: "Automatic Surgical Sponge Counter and Blood Loss Determination System"

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: A94087US (51929/1)

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED

FEB 07 1996

GROUP 2100

Sir:

Enclosed are a Form PTO-1449 and the references listed thereon.

Abels, U.S. Patent No. 4,193,405, discloses a surgical sponge having a small transponder fixed thereto. However, the transponder in that system generates microwaves which apparently primarily heat surrounding tissue, rather than signalling to a receiver the presence of the sponge.

Miller, Jr. et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,658,818, discloses a surgical sponge with a battery operated tag attached thereto. If the battery wears out or malfunctions, the tag can malfunction.

The Fabian et al. patents, U.S. Patent Nos. 5,188,126, 5,190,059, 5,329,944, and 5,107,862 (submitted with previous Information Disclosure Statement) all disclose (see the Field Of The Invention) tags which can be put on surgical sponges to allow them to be detected with a detector. It is the understanding of the undersigned that these tags all use batteries, and thus can malfunction if the batteries malfunction or wear out.

Knapp et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,300,120, discloses the combination of a surgical implant and a passive radio frequency transponder. A hand held reader is used to gather information from the transponder in the implant.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, he is encouraged to

contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Applicants respectfully petition the Commissioner for any extension of time necessary to render this paper timely.

Please charge any fees due or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 16-2435.

Respectfully submitted,



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